

REMARKS

The Office Action issued June 30, 2000 has been reviewed and the comments of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office have been considered. Claims 1, 8, 12 and 15 have been amended. Applicant respectfully submits that no new subject matter has been added by the amendment. Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Applicants request reconsideration of the pending claims.

Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Taylor. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection insofar as it can be applied to the pending claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, that the claimed fastener limits reciprocation of the fuel injector along the longitudinal axis in a direction toward the fuel injector cup and away from the fuel injector cup. Claim 1 particularly points out that the fastener allows for longitudinal reciprocation of the fuel injector, while limiting the amount of longitudinal reciprocation of the fuel injector toward and away from the fuel injector cup.

Taylor teaches an arrangement of a manifold assembly 10 including a fuel injector 13, fuel injector cup 32, and orientation clip 42. The orientation clip 42 includes an orientation tab 46 that axially aligns and circumferentially unites the injector 13 with notches

56 in the fuel injector cup 32. The orientation tabs 46 of the orientation clip 42 are free to move axially through the notches 56 of the fuel injector cup 32. The clip 42 and cup 32 restrict the range of axial movement of the fuel injector 13 along the longitudinal axis in a first direction, toward the fuel injector cup 32, and fail to restrict movement of the fuel injector 13 in a second direction, away from the fuel injector cup 32. Thus, Taylor does not suggest or teach a fastener that limits longitudinal reciprocation of a fuel injector toward and away from a fuel injector cup along the longitudinal axis as recited in the claimed invention as a whole. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over Taylor.

Claims 3-10 and 12-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bassler in view of Taylor. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections insofar as they can be applied to the pending claims.

Claims 1, 8, 12 and 15 have been amended to recite, *inter alia*, that the claimed fastener on clip limits reciprocation of the fuel injector along the longitudinal axis in a direction toward the fuel injector cup and away from the fuel injector cup. Claims 1, 8, 12 and 15 particularly point out that the fastener allows for longitudinal reciprocation of the fuel injector, while limiting the amount of longitudinal reciprocation of the fuel injector toward and away from the fuel injector cup.

In sharp contrast, Bassler locks the fuel injector valve 12 on the connecting piece

11 (fuel injector cup) by a collar 16 (clip) both in the axial direction and in the circumferential direction so that without an external expenditure of force it can neither be pulled off in the axial direction nor rotated in the circumferential direction. *See* column 3 lines 35-50 of Bassler, et al. Accordingly, Bassler et al. fails to teach or suggest a clip that allows for reciprocation of a fuel injector relative to a fuel injector cup.

The secondary reference of Taylor fails to cure the deficiencies identified above in Bassler to reach the claimed invention as a whole. Although Taylor may suggest the desirability of providing axial reciprocation of a fuel injector relative to a fuel cup, Taylor restricts axial movement of the injector in only a first direction, whereas the claimed invention limits axial movement in both a first and second longitudinal axial direction. There is no suggestion to modify Bassler in view of Taylor to limit axial reciprocation of the fuel injector toward and away from the fuel injector cup without the benefit of applicant's disclosure. Thus, the proposed combination of Bassler in view of Taylor fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention as a whole, is improper, and should be withdrawn.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bassler and Taylor as applied to claim 10 in further view of Harrell. Similarly, Harrell does not cure the deficiencies identified in Bassler and Taylor.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 8, 12 and 15 are allowable over Taylor, Bassler, and Harrell, singularly, or in combination. Claims 2-7 are dependent upon independent base claim 1, claims 9-11 are dependent upon independent base claim 8, claims

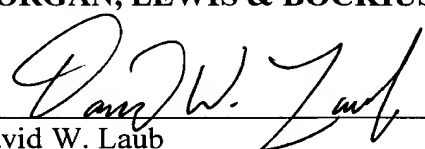
13 and 14 are dependent upon independent base claim 12 and claims 16-18 are dependent upon independent base claim 15.

Accordingly, applicant submits that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. An early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions regarding the application, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number below. Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. §1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.66 and 1.77 which may be required, including any required extension of time, fees, or credit any overpayment to a deposit account 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a constructive petition for extension of time in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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